

BENEFIT CONCERT FOR PUERTO RICAN EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS FEBRUARY 1

Bomba Radio will host a special concert on Saturday, February 1, from 1 - 6 pm to raise money for victims of the recent earthquakes in Puerto Rico. The concert will be held at Favela, 145 Newfield Avenue, Hartford.

There is no admission charge but all those attending are asked to make as generous a donation as possible to assist those who were injured, left homeless or otherwise affected by the series of quakes that recently shook the

island.

Scheduled performers include Diel, Lyzbeth, Abigail, Choco Band, Alex Cabrera, Nikko y Rosario, Candelia "Mr. Que Bonita Bandera," and Giova, plus special appear-

ances by Charlie Cruz and Domenic Marte.

The concert will be hosted by Bomba's own on-air personalities.

Those unable to attend are asked to donate online. Go to: CThelpsPR.org.

The Hartford News

January 23 - 29, 2020



NEWS BRIEFS

Operation Fuel's Ice House Event this Friday and Saturday

Come visit Connecticut's coolest attraction, the Operation Fuel Ice House presented by Eversource Energy on January 24-25 at the Old State House Grounds in Hartford. Don't miss this unique structure carved from 40,000 pounds of ice plus thermal imaging body heat photos, giveaways, food trucks, mascots, and more. Your suggested donation of \$5 will help Connecticut families and individuals with energy assistance. Go to www.operationfuel.org/ice for more information. Operation Fuel provides energy assistance year round throughout Connecticut to lower-income working families and individuals, the elderly, and disabled individuals who are in a financial crisis. Currently more than 400,000 Connecticut households can't afford their energy bills, which are among the highest in the nation.

Night Fall Movie Rescheduled to this Saturday

A FREE screening of the movie of the 2019 Night Fall performance will be shown this Saturday, January 25, at Christ Church Hall, 45 Church Street in Downtown Hartford. The movie was originally scheduled for last Saturday, but was postponed due to the snow-storm. Arrive this Saturday at 6:00 pm for refreshments, mingling and a chance to win fantastic prizes! Movie starts at 6:30 pm sharp, followed by a brief discussion with the artists of Night Fall. Snacks and beverages will be available for purchase. If you would like to make a gift to Night Fall, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, you can do so at the door.

Public Punishment focus of Discussion Saturday

The Encounters Series will discuss "Public Punishment, Race and Remembrance" this Saturday, January 25, from 10am-12pm (lunch to follow) at the Old State House, 800 Main Street, Downtown Hartford. The discussion will center on the question,

Continued on page 6



Library Sizzles with Salsa

Mirthalys Melendez and Marco Quintana show off their dance moves at "Sizzling Salsa Night" at Hartford Public Library in Downtown Hartford on Tuesday, January 21. The night opened with a salsa dance class taught by Rey Bermudez, and was followed by a free dance hour with music provided by Latin Jazz band Agua Pa Chocolate. (Hart photo)

Hartford...Once Upon a Time



In the early 20th century, real estate developers realized that they could make more money off prime real estate by building the taller buildings that had been made possible by new construction techniques and the invention of the safety elevator. The buildings in the photo, which were probably demolished in the 1930s, were certainly located on prime real estate at 740 Main Street and 744-742 Main Street in Downtown Hartford (across the street from where the Gold Building stands today). The site is now occupied by a 11-floor office building. The photo was apparently taken just before the buildings were demolished, as one sign in Dorothy Dodd Frocks on the second floor of the building at right states, "Forced to Vacate. Building Coming Down." A small sign on the third floor reads 1790, apparently the year the building was constructed. (Photo courtesy of the Hartford Public Library's Hartford Collection)

Cold Truth

Problems at the city's overnight warming shelter

BY ANNE GOSHDIGIAN

Monday, Martin Luther King Day, was bitter cold. Daytime temperatures barely reached into the 20s, and dropped down to single digits after nightfall and into the late hours. At 4:30 that afternoon, a dozen people shivered outside the entrance to the city's Thirman Milner School overnight warming shelter on Vine Street. Some stood on the cold stone steps, a couple of others sat on them, and one man rested in his wheelchair—a double amputee who'd been in that spot since 7 a.m. They were wrapped in blankets, and rubbing frozen hands. Three of them were veterans of the U.S. military. Two women were also present. They were all waiting for the Salvation Army employees, who are contracted by the city to staff the shelter, to arrive and open the doors at 7 p.m. This scene isn't new, and has become the norm since Milner opened last month. There are 80 (16 reserved for women; the rest are for men) cots available in the school's gym and they go quickly, so an ever-growing number of people experiencing homelessness arrive hours ahead of the admittance time in order to secure a place out of the winter weather for the night. While waiting, they have no access to food or drink, no bathroom facilities, and no place to charge their phones in case 211 calls offering a bed in a homeless shelter, so they wait, they talk a little, and they freeze. There's nothing else to do.

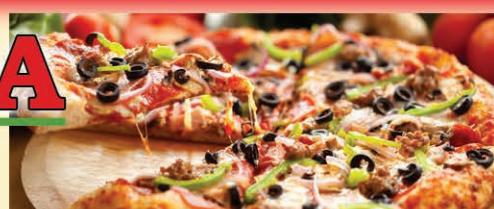
On Sunday night, one man—an activist who is intermittently homeless—made a short video with those gathered outside that included a plea to Governor Lamont to do something about their plight. He posted it on a Hartford Facebook page, where it also caught the attention of the Salvation Army staff. They were not pleased, and issued a warning to the shelter-seekers: "You guys know you're on Facebook? There won't be resources for you if you keep doing that. And if you talk about this, we can make it so you can't go anywhere else." This is why most of those waiting were afraid to give their names to the Hartford News or be photographed; they feared retaliation in the form of being denied a cot at Milner. (That actually happened to the man who made the video. On Monday night he waited in line and when his turn came for admittance he was refused, and was told that it was because he'd posted that video on Sunday.) But they were eager to talk, and grateful that any-

Continued on page 6

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CAN YOU READ ME?

Great news for Hartford's Icelandic, Catalonian, and Finnish populations!

COMMENTARY BY ANNE GOSHDIGIAN

There have been some complaints directed at City Hall about announcements on the weekly Hartford 311/One Hartford website not being printed in Spanish in addition to English. I think that's a reasonable request in our city where nearly half of the residents are Spanish-speaking. Knowing what's going on when and where—some of that information vital—should be accessible to everyone. Now, in an innovative move, one that may well become a model for other great metropolitan areas, those announcements can now be read in 49—count 'em, 49!—languages in addition to English. Yes, the city has discovered Google Translate; check it out online. There's already rejoicing in the Norwegian, Bantu, and Hebrew speaking neighborhoods.

No longer will those of Celtic, Macedonian, and Romanian descent be forced to miss a Compstat meeting at HPD because they didn't get the word. And there'll be no confusion among those who read Portugal's Portuguese as opposed to Brazil's Portuguese because they're both available on the site; the same goes for three diverse Chinese dialects. Descendants of Adriaen Block, founding father of Hartford's beautiful riverfront, will surely be pleased to finally be able to read in Dutch that the city has instituted a parking ban—particularly a guy named Hans, whose car was towed last winter due to the language barrier. Hindi is also on the list, which surprised me a little, because the people from India (and Pakistan) that I interact with in this city speak better English than

most native-born Americans. And they probably also read it well, since a lot of them manage or own many Hartford businesses. But what the heck—the more, the merrier!

Property and car tax bills are coming due, and the city has warned us multiple times, in both English and Spanish, that even if we haven't yet received a bill in the mail, we still have to pony up by the due date or pay a late fee. Thankfully, those Hartford residents who can only read Arabic, Afrikaans, Hungarian, Swedish, Slovakian or Slovenian (I always forget which one of those last two is Melania Trump's place of birth) can avoid the penalty and save a few bucks. However, with announcements of city meetings now readable in Czech, Malaysian, Latvian, and Thai, it's only natural that the next step the city needs to take is to provide simultaneous translation at City Council, Board of Education, and Commission meetings. Not only will our fair city resemble a mini United Nations, but it'll create jobs for our immigrant populations. Score!

Yes, of all the issues facing the state's capital, it's good to know that the Office of Community Engagement is on the ball. They've certainly gone above and beyond to ensure that no one is left out of the loop to access the notices of City employment opportunities—although I suspect that most of those jobs require the ability to read English. Hey! I could be wrong about that.

Your tax dollars at work.

Much Ado About Nothing?

OPINION BY TOM SWARR

The newly elected City Council kicked off their tenure much like the contentious family political discussions over a Thanksgiving turkey. Partisan squabbles are nothing new. Former council member Mike McGarry noted that when the Republicans had their chance to exert power in the mid-1990's, they certainly took every advantage. "To the victor go the spoils." But we had hoped for more. Another former council member, Bob Painter, expressed deep disappointment. "These kinds of partisan squabbles only invite more back and forth petty retractions, rather than pulling from the strengths of all council members for the good of the city."

My bigger concern is that this juvenile spat over parking spaces and titles will distract from larger questions. First, let's address the drama over titles. There were claims that the Democratic majority was seeking to exclude the minority parties. The threat of an oppressive majority faction was of particular concern to our Founding Fathers. They believed factions acting in their own self-interests were an inherent aspect of human nature and could not be avoided. The only practical strategy was to create structures to contain the power of factions. James Madison observed in Federalist Paper No. 10, "...take in a greater variety of parties and interests; you make it less probable that a majority of the whole will have a common motive to invade the rights of other citizens." The threat of a tyranny of an uncompromising and activist minority can be equally problematic. Claims that the minority parties were to be shut out were exaggerated. Vas Srivastava, Deputy Chief of Staff, confirmed that the Working Families Party will indeed be at the bi-weekly meetings to set the council agenda. The selection of party leaders is appropriately an item for the individual party caucuses, not a vote of the full City Council.

All this noise over parking spaces and office assignments has distracted attention from what I consider a

bigger issue, namely committee assignments. I am a bit disturbed that no committee chair was given to the minority parties. It is worth noting that in the past municipal election the top vote-getter on the council was endorsed by only 10.6% of registered voters, and the overall turnout was a meager 17%. Given the embarrassingly low turnout, both the council and the administration face a crisis of legitimacy that makes it ever more important to have an inclusive process that builds public trust.

Elimination of the Legislative Affairs Committee is equally troubling and even more baffling. The city is critically dependent on state financing and subject to numerous state and regional decisions. Hartford must effectively advocate for regional support in these decisions. To name just a few, consider MDC's recent decision to abruptly eliminate funding for Riverfront Recapture; or the pending project to redevelop the trash incinerator; or state investments (or not) in public transit. How will the council coordinate with our state delegation to promote Hartford's interests? How our city council is perceived can aid or detract from the ability of our state delegation to be effective advocates at the state legislature. It would seem to me beneficial to coordinate communications with our state delegation through a single committee. Elimination of this committee begs for an explanation.

McGarry was less concerned about the infighting than the question of leadership. We need leadership that can rise above these petty disputes and avoid a tit-for-tat retribution. We can only hope that the council quickly moves on from this poor start and commits to working together for the good of all residents. Just as it takes two to continue the Thanksgiving meal arguments, collaboration depends on both majority and minority parties putting resident needs above their political self-interests. Stop the drama and get to work!

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Politically Speaking

A Fresh Look at Issues
Facing our Region & State

BY MIKE MCGARRY

"Rain of Parks" in Hartford's Weather Forecast

In the late 19th Century, Hartford was at the forefront of landscape gardening with its "Rain of Parks" movement. More than 100 years later, many of these beautiful gardens still exist and await their heritage to be rediscovered. Over three days in May, Hartford Blooms will present the opportunity to revisit some of these gems as well as to discover new ones.

Hartford Blooms Heritage Garden Tours will take place from Friday, May 29, 2020, through Sunday, May 31, 2020, with two guided bus tours each day:

10 am - 1 pm and 2 pm - 5 pm. Tours will depart from Keney Park in Hartford, where free parking will be provided. Participants will visit established and developing parks, historic gardens and city "farms." The morning tour will focus on Cedar Hill Cemetery, an historical house garden, Mount Trashmore (the for-



William Hosley will be available to participants on both tours.

Cost for each tour is \$20, luncheon not included. Lunch selections will be available pre-tour. For more information, go to the website: hartfordblooms.dgn or contact Hartford Blooms/K of C, 140 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105.

In My Opinion

CVH Whiting Task Force To Discuss Scathing Disability Rights CT Report

BY DAVID SAMUELS

Community Update: Last week the Community Party discussed tenant rights legislation with House Majority Leader Matt Ritter. One of the concepts we talked about was creating an ombudsman office, that would handle housing court cases involving credible claims of landlord retaliation before that case moves to the eviction phase. This office would become a go-to resource for identifying retaliatory landlords. Repeat offenders would trigger an investigation by the Attorney General. The 2020 legislative session starts Wednesday, February 5th. Stay tuned.

The Connecticut Valley Hospital Whiting Forensic task force will meet with Disability Rights Connecticut on Monday, January 27 at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford, to discuss the organization's report on conditions at CVH/Whiting. DRCT described "pervasive" patient safety issues and called for "organizational culture change".

From the report: "Upon completion of a lengthy investigation, Disability Rights Connecticut (DRCT) substantiated abuse, neglect and violations of patients' rights at Whiting Forensic Hospital (WFH) and Connecticut Valley Hospital (CVH). When revelations of egregious conditions first surfaced in media reports in the Spring of 2017 state entities responded, addressing some of the initial concerns. The subsequent DRCT investigation initially centered on the circumstances in regards to two patients – William Shehadi and Andrew Vermiglio. However, based upon a broader examination, DRCT's findings illustrate many concerns still exist."

This critique also applies to racism and workplace bullying, which threatens patient safety. As I have reported in this space, disciplinary data the Community Party obtained from CVH through a Freedom of Information Act request show unconscionable racial

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Baby Grand Jazz Series Continues Sunday with the Daskia Laroo Band



The Baby Grand Jazz Series at Hartford Public Library, 500 Main Street, Hartford will continue this Sunday, January 26, with a free performance by the Saskia Laroo Band. Baby Grand Jazz Concerts will be held every Sunday through April 26 (except for Easter Sunday, April 19th), from 3 – 4 pm (doors open at 2 pm).

2020 Baby Grand Jazz Schedule

Jan. 26	Saskia Laroo Band	March 15	Iris Ornig Quintet
Feb. 2	Matt Chasen's "This Is Our Music" Ensemble	March 22	Haneef N. Nelson Quintet
Feb. 9	The Unity Quintet	March 29	Ricky Alfonso Group
Feb. 16	Emilio Solla Tributango	April 5	Envisage Collective
Feb. 23	Nathan Davis Sextet	April 12	Easter (No concert)
March 1	Ron Smith Quintet	April 19	The Joe Carter Samba Rio Quarteto
March 8	The Afro-Semitic Experience	April 26	TAEKO

ActUp Theater to Present Black History Month Musical

In February, Hartford's ActUp Theater will present STAND, an original social justice musical in honor of Black History Month.

The show will presented two times only, at 3 pm and 6 pm on Saturday, February 8, at the Black Box Theater at the newly renovated Weaver High School, 415 Granby Street, Hartford. Both shows will be followed by a talk-back session in which the performers and audience members will discuss some of the issues raised by the play.

STAND will explore social justice issues pulled from today's culture and headlines. The original story will highlight resilience through peer pressure, bullying, parent expectations, social media, cultural identity, mental health, safety, and love.

STAND takes place in a class-

room lock-down after students witness an event and refuse to come forward. Each character is forced to confront their choices, retrace their past, and face their humanity.

These stories are told and intertwined

with dynamic dances, poetry, and inspirational songs that give the audience a refreshing take on a musical.

Founded in 2015 by theater veteran Faithlyn Johnson, ActUp Theater's mission is to "provide a creative outlet for youth and community members of all ages to challenge themselves, their immediate environment, and their community."

Tickets for STAND are \$25 (\$20 for seniors and students) and may be purchased at STAND2020.eventbrite.com or at the door.

CITY OF HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

The second semi-annual installment of taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2018, and the Supplemental Motor Vehicle List, were due and payable on January 1, 2020.

Failure to pay any tax due January 1, 2020, on or before February 3, 2020, will cause the tax to become delinquent and subject to interest, from the due date, at the rate of 1 1/2 % per full or partial month. Any delinquent tax is subject to a minimum interest charge of two dollars (\$2.00).

Since failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the tax or, in the event of delinquency, respective penalties, taxpayers who did not receive a bill should request a duplicate from the Division of Assessment and Collection.

Payments may be made in person at the Office of the Tax Collector, 550 Main Street, Room 106, Hartford, Connecticut, during the hours listed below, mailed to the address on the bills or paid online at WWW.HARTFORD.GOV.

Monday through Wednesday 8:15 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.; Thursday 8:15 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.; Friday 8:15 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (excluding holidays).

NANCY RAICH, CCMC
Tax Collector
City of Hartford



Trinity Students Lend a Hand

This past week, Trinity students in the college's JELLO Community Service Club came back to campus early to complete a week of community service projects with partner organizations around Hartford, including the Church of the Good Shepherd, Night Fall, Cinestudio, Place of Grace Food Pantry, Habitat ReStore, and Knox. Congratulations and thank you to students Brooke Agro, Alison Cofrancesco, Hanifa Darwish, Amelia Huba, Amodini Katoch, Sarah Kennedy, Eve Pollack, Jonah Silverglade, and Emily Wertheimer. JELLO members are shown above at Church of the Good Shepherd Church on Wyllis Street with Jack Hale (left), Senior Warden of the church, and Joe Barber (fourth from left), Trinity College Director of Community Service and Civic Engagement. Both Hale and Barber, who have been active in the Hartford community for many years, are Trinity graduates.

Yard Goats Individual Tickets Go On Sale February 7

The Hartford Yard Goats Baseball Club, the Double-A Eastern League affiliate of the Colorado Rockies, will begin selling individual tickets for all home games on Friday, February 7th. Fans will have the opportunity to purchase tickets in person only, beginning at 10:00 AM at the Click It or Ticket Box Office at Dunkin' Donuts Park. The Yard Goats will play 70 home games at Dunkin' Donuts Park in 2020.

The first 50 fans to purchase tickets in person will receive a \$25 Dunkin' gift card. Tickets can be ordered over the phone beginning at 12pm, and online at www.yardgoatsbaseball.com.

including 51 sellouts, and led the entire Eastern League in total attendance for the second straight year. The Yard Goats became the first minor league baseball club in Connecticut history to attract over 400,000 plus fans in consecutive seasons.

To purchase tickets, call 860-246-GOAT (4628), go to the website www.yardgoatsbaseball.com, or purchase in person at Dunkin' Donuts Park, corner of Main and Trumbull Streets, Downtown Hartford.

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The On-Time Application Period Deadline is Fast Approaching!

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Visit: 450 Columbus Blvd., Suite P28, Hartford, CT 06103



Women Can Weld!

New Training Course Starts February 10



Next month, Capital Workforce Partners, the Jobs Funnel and the CT Department of Labor will offer "Women Can Weld," a no-cost training program that introduces women to profitable, secure careers in welding.

The program is 10 weeks long, 30 hours a week, Monday through Friday, from 7:00 am - 3:30 pm. Woman Can Weld will be conducted by the Ironworkers Local 15 Joint Apprenticeship Training.

Classes begin on Monday, February 10 at 49 Locust Street in Hartford's South Meadows industrial area.

Criteria for Participation:

- 18 and older
- Resident of Connecticut
- Valid CT driver's license
- Reliable transportation
- Physically fit to do the work
- High School Diploma or GED
- Able to pass a drug test
- Willing to commit to the 10

week training program (hours 7:00 am-3:30 pm)

Program Includes:

- A math refresher course & test preparation
- 10 weeks of technical training
- An opportunity to meet and network with women in the field
- Workplace readiness and basic construction skills – "hands-on" experience

Upon completion of program you will receive certifications in:

- Flagging and Signaling
- Fire Watch
- 10-hour OSHA Construction
- Scaffold User/Dismantler
- CPR and First Aid
- Forklift

For more information please call 860-899-3448. To fill out the pre-application, go to: www.capitalworkforce.org/weld



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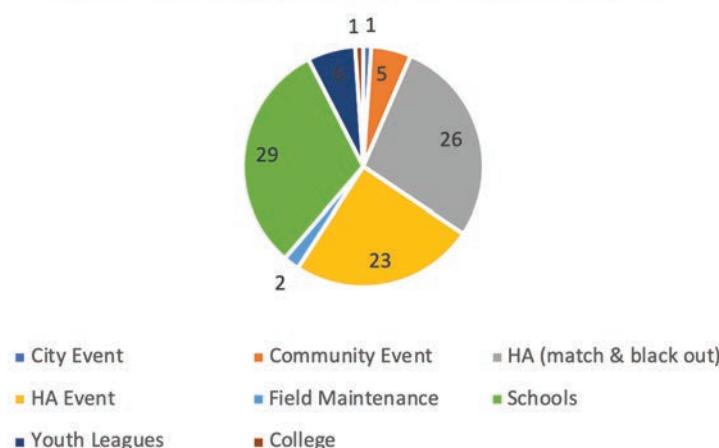
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Dillon Stadium: What's New?

BY DONNA SWARR

DILLON STADIUM USAGE 2019



After the 2016 Dillon Stadium Community Use meeting, the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission determined that the community's primary desire was to allow access to Dillon by the Hartford schools and Hartford youth leagues. The city at that time was unable to support renovations and maintenance to the stadium. Currently, it is still unable to provide upgrades or maintenance to this city-owned property.

On January 15th, PRAC and the Friends of Colt Park held a public meeting to gather input from the Hartford community concerning their experiences with scheduling, use, and the fee structure for Dillon Stadium in 2019. Many chose to submit their feedback via email or through phone interviews. The process for reservations is as follows: Hartford Athletic has priority, next the schools and youth leagues, followed by other community groups, and lastly, Hartford Athletic is allowed to select dates for additional events as may other interested groups. All groups are allowed to continue to book the stadium throughout the remainder of the year, but bumping those with reservations is not allowed.

All groups shared that holding games at the stadium was a positive experience for youth. Nicole Porter from the Hartford Public Schools said "Playing there was great. It was big improvement over the old stadium." There was mixed experience in ease of booking the stadium. Other issues brought up included; use of both bleachers, security arrangements, equity amongst high school use, use of locker rooms, and snow removal. They want to be able to use both bleachers in the future. Determining the level of security required is an area for improvement, and a standard practice for

league, said they needed a "huddle space", an area to warm up. Snow removal for the football games needs to have a process in place. A contract with a service or shared equipment is being considered. Next year the middle schools and 4th-6th grades are looking forward to scheduling their tournaments and finals in the stadium.

The youth leagues struggled with use of the facility; arrangements for determining dates was challenging, they struggled with the cost, and there was some misinformation which resulted in low usage by this category. The Hartford Hurricanes stated that "the field and the layout of the field is 100% great and one of the best experiences for kids". The Hartford Hurricanes would like to host, for the first time, the regional championship games in Hartford next year. They reminded the meeting attendees that football games can't be played at Dillon Stadium until after soccer season ends. The cost of the relining the field for football and back to soccer is a serious cost barrier for allowing the football games to be played during the soccer season. Adult Leagues did not use the facility in 2019. They don't qualify for community use funding, so

organizations. Hartford Athletic holds events as well, but those have contracted service agreements. They also asked that the 24-hour advance notice rule be reviewed.

Determining the number of attendees was confusing, and city services are based upon this. Is it by number of hours, or is it total attendance? A discussion about how many players can be on the field at the same time was explored. Because Community Special Events includes large-scale athletic events, the term "Jamboree" came up as a potential issue, as it allows many more players on the field than a traditional game. It was deemed that the stadium's field isn't suitable for a Jamboree. Several people have asked if there are plans to purchase a cover for the field, allowing for different kinds of events to be held there, both community and "other". Artificial turf is expensive, and ensuring that there is as little wear and tear to it is highly desirable. The cost for a cover is quite high but a solution is being explored.

The renovation of Dillon Stadium was achieved through a CRDA loan that's being repaid by Hartford Athletic rental fees. Without their continued support and their continued financial success, community use of Dillon wouldn't be possible. The Park and Recreation Advisory Commission and the Friends of Colt Park want to thank all who offered this much-needed public input about their experiences using Dillon Stadium. Changes to the fee structure, policies, or procedures for its use will be announced shortly, as the community group sign-up period begins shortly.



Hartford Athletics fans cheer on the team at Dillon Stadium in August 2019. (File photo)

security cost and staffing is highly desirable. The schools have their own requirements already, but this is usually for inside the facility. HPD's event staffing has been determined for use on an individual event basis; the costs can be radically different for each event. Organizers can't absorb additional cost for security after an event. The use of the locker rooms was not allowed, and both HPS and the youth leagues would like that to be reviewed. The Hartford Hurricanes, a youth football

fees are most likely the deterrent. There are several football, soccer and rugby adult leagues in Hartford.

Special Events proved to be a confusing category for organizers. The two sub-categories are community use and "other". Community events include non-athletic and large athletic events of over 500. In 2019, there were three; Stomp the Violence, Turkey Day, and the Dillon Stadium Community Day. The "other" category is reserved for non-Hartford

Book Signing for New UConn Hoops Book

Author Jeff Goldberg will sign copies of his new book, "Unrivaled: UConn, Tennessee and the Twelve Years That Transcended Women's Basketball," on Thursday, January 23, at 5 pm at the UConn Hartford Barnes & Noble Book Store, 18 Front St., Downtown Hartford.

The book details the rivalry between the two schools that dominated women's college basketball and elevated it to a major American sport. The event is free.

Salvation Army Seeks Volunteers to Help Battle Human Trafficking

The Salvation Army's Anti-Human Trafficking Bloom Initiative is currently seeking volunteers. The Bloom Initiative serves Greater Hartford, working with male and female survivors of sex and/or labor trafficking in the Greater Hartford area. The Bloom Initiative works alongside survivors of human trafficking on their journey from exploitation to empowerment. Services provided include specialized case management, basic needs assistance, long-term support, outreach, and community training and education.

Street Outreach

Volunteers can participate in nighttime street outreach where they will make connections with women engaged in the commercial sex industry by offering them a gift bag to show them that they are valued and appreciated. Volunteers will share information about the Hope Roots Center for Women where the women can receive further assistance. Volunteers will be engaging with a population that is often overlooked and misunderstood. Providing gift bags and resources will let them know they are seen. **Thursdays, 7:30pm – 10:00pm**

Hope Roots Center for Women

Volunteers will help create a safe and secure place for women engaged in the commercial sex industry to come relax. The volunteers will engage with the women through friendly conversation

over a warm meal, and by participating in group activities. The Center is a place where women can be themselves and volunteers can provide them with acceptance and support. Hope Roots Center for Women was created in October 2018. As a sister initiative of the Bloom Initiative, the center offers a safe and secure place for all women (including cis and trans women) in the life of commercial sex exploitation. It is a judgement free zone that allows women to be themselves. Trained staff are available for the sole purpose of building relationships and connections while assisting with meeting the women's individual needs. Services provided include a hot meal, clothing, hygiene products, snacks, pastoral care, referrals to community services, and case management. **Fridays, 11:00am – 2:00pm**

Community Awareness

Volunteers will have the opportunity to provide local businesses in the Greater Hartford area with information on human trafficking and to inform them of Section 6 of Public Act 13-166, which requires antihuman trafficking resource posters to be posted to enhance public awareness for employees and their customers.

For more information about The Bloom Initiative or volunteer opportunities please contact Rebekah.Quimby@use.salvation-army.org



MLK Community Day at the Wadsworth

The Wadsworth Atheneum in Downtown Hartford hosted its annual Martin Luther King Day Community Day. Admission was free to all. There were also numerous things to see and do. Storyteller Andre Keitt is shown above delighting a large audience with a traditional African folk tale. Carl Joe Williams and Ed Johnetta Miller, two of the many artists featured in the Wadsworth's exhibit "Afrocosmologies: American Reflections," both guided youngsters in interactive art-making projects in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, including Parker and Jadyn Smith. (right).



Dance Company Seeks Donations for Scholarships for Hartford Youths

On February 10, Sonia Plumb Dance, in partnership with Footlights Performing Arts and Education, will launch Dive Into Dance! Classes will include modern, ballet, creative, electives AND a boys only foundation class. The cost per semester is between \$200 and \$275 per class.

With the generous support of a matching grant from Sustainable CT, Sonia Plumb Dance will offer 23 scholarships to Hartford youth in need of financial aid. The Dance Company is currently seeking donations to help match the grant.

To make a donation, go to: <https://ioby.org/project/dive-dance-sonia-plumb-dance-company>

Clases Gratuitas de Inglés

Clases Gratuitas De Ingles De Invierno/ Primavera. Niveles Basicos Solamente

- Biblioteca Pública de Hartford, Downtown, 500 Main Street, Hartford
- Clases los sábados comienzan el 8 de febrero, 9:30 a.m. a 12:30 p.m.
- Los estudiantes pueden participar en ambas sesiones: clases entre semana y los sábados *Registración separada es necesaria para cada clase.
- REGISTRACION ES NECESARIA. Registrese En Persona. Miércoles, jueves, o sábados 10:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m.

Winter/Spring FREE English Classes. BEGINNER LEVELS ONLY

- Hartford Public Library, Downtown, 500 Main Street
- Saturday classes begin February 8, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Students can register for both weekday and Saturday sessions. Separate registration required for each program.
- Registration is required. REGISTER IN PERSON! Wednesdays, Thursdays, or Saturdays 10:00 am – 12:30 pm



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News Briefs

Continued from page 1

"What does the history of punishment in Connecticut mean for us today?" For twenty years, a reproduction stock and pillory have stood on the west side of Connecticut's Old State House. Without any signage or description, myths and inaccurate information have grown up around them. But they have also spurred meaningful reflection on public punishment and its effects on individuals and communities. To reserve your space, please RSVP to Rebecca.Taber-Conover@cga.ct.gov.

Rapid Fire Double Dutch Competition January 25

The JADHA Foundation/CT Double Dutch will host a Rapid Fire Double Dutch Jump-Rope Competition on Saturday, January 25. Check-in begins at 11 am; the competition will start at 12:30 pm. The event will be held at the Wilson Gray YMCA Youth and Family Center, 444 Albany Avenue, Hartford. Registration fees are \$10 for unattached teams; \$15 twin speed and novice

teams; \$20 single and double teams; \$15 for unattached jumpers (Open Division/College); and \$15 for unattached jumpers (Old School/Seasoned 30 & up). For more information, call Lady Carrie McCrory, 860-424-2971 or email MrsCarriem@gmail.com. The competition is part of the JADHA Foundation's effort to revive the sport of Double Dutch in Hartford. The city was once home to several world champions.

The Dance Collective Offers Class for Beginners

The Dance Collective, 30 Arbor Street, Hartford, will host "Moves & Grooves" this Sunday, January 26, from 10:30 - 11:30 am. "Moves & Grooves" is a perfect movement class for beginners. A free-flowing and creative class, it is perfect for "non-dancers" looking to explore movement in a safe, inviting space. Dance Collective instructors will provide movement structures, improvisation techniques, and guidance to assist you in discovering your own unique voice as a mover. Cost is \$10. To register, go to:

thedancecollective.org.

WECA Meets January 28

The West End Civic Association (WECA) will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 28, from 6 - 8 pm at Hartford Seminary, 77 Sherman Street, Hartford. State Representative Matt Ritter will be the guest speaker and will discuss legislative initiative impacting the neighborhood. Ritter will also field questions from the audience regarding local issues and concerns. Light Refreshments will be served.

Community Weaving Exhibit Opens at Clare Gallery January 30

The Clare Gallery, 285 Church Street, Hartford, will display Hartford Public Library's community weaving project, "Woven Threads, Woven Lives" from January 30 through February 23. Gallery hours are 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Friday; 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday; and 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Sunday. Artist and weaver, Sandy Fromson, began the project in 2016 and completed it in 2018 with contributing artist Charmaine Craig. The culmination of the project produced a beautifully colored, 24-foot woven banner, with nearly 200 people taking part in its creation. Each weaver could choose various yarns, threads, or other material to add to the banner, along with a wish written on a tag. 188 tags flutter and hang providing an additional unique texture to the piece. Along with the banner, a map and photographs help tell the story of the participants and where they live. A Reception and Artist Talk with Fromson and Craig will be held on Sunday, February 9, from 1-3 p.m. (Snow date is Sunday, February 16)

"Wireless Friday" at Phillips Metropolitan January 31

On Friday, January 31, Phillips Metropolitan CME Church, 2500 Main Street, Hartford, will present "Wireless Friday: Get Connected

"Community Fun Day" from 7 - 10 pm. The event is a chance to take a break from social media and other digital activities. Admission is free and there will be food and games for all ages, including dominoes, chess, play station, uno, movies and much more.

Benefit for Interval House February 6

On Thursday, February 6, Rachel Louise Snyder will be Interval House's guest speaker for a breakfast at The Hartford Club, 46 Prospect Street, Downtown Hartford. Snyder will discuss her book, *No Visible Bruises: What We Don't Know About Domestic Violence Can Kill Us* – named one of the Top 10 Books of 2019 by The New York Times. She will also discuss how domestic violence can seep into the workplace and how corporate leaders should remain aware to protect their employees and themselves. A book signing will follow the program and books will be available for purchase. All proceeds benefit Interval House, working to end domestic violence. Tickets for the event are \$50 and are available at www.novisiblbruises.eventbrite.com.

Warming Shelter

Continued from page 1

one would listen. When asked about the sleeping conditions, we were told we could see the cots in the school's gym through a window on the side of the vacant building; they were made up for the night. Just

then, at 5 p.m., the first staffer pulled into the parking lot, came over, and told me I could not look in that window. There were no people inside—just 80 cots in a gym—but we were told it was private property and we couldn't look. It is city-owned property—the same as city

hall—but she insisted it was private. She also said we could not speak to the people outside the building, who would be waiting there for two more hours. More staff arrived for a total of six, and they entered the building. We noted that there was a foyer/entryway just inside the door, separating it from the school's interior. They refuse to allow people to wait in that area until 7 p.m.—an area that's heated and also encompasses two restrooms. One man said he'd made a complaint about that, and was told by a staff member that if he didn't like it he could "...get the f**k out of here." When he protested being talked to that way, the staffer repeated it.

The man in the wheelchair has been spending 12 hours a day, every day, outside the building because his chair needs a new battery and one hasn't been delivered yet. When asked about the "nutritious food" that was promised when the city announced Milner's opening, I was told that most of the time they get soup and a sandwich. And what

happened to the memo sent out by the Mayor's Chief of Staff, which stated that after the 80-cot limit was reached, other arrivals could spend the night in chairs? That's fallen by the wayside. There are plenty of chairs inside, but they can't be used, and the overflow is told that they are allowed to spend the night outside on the school property. There are also showers inside, but the overnight "guests" cannot use them. At 6:15, three people hurried down the sidewalk from Main Street to reach the line outside. One was a woman who'd just gotten off from work (There are people experiencing homelessness who have jobs, but don't earn enough to afford housing). She said that the protocol at Milner is to awaken them at 5:30 a.m. preparatory to the mandatory 7 a.m. departure. "But sometimes they wake us up at 4 a.m.", she said. The Salvation Army staff also does not allow outside donations of food, clothing, or personal care items for those staying at Milner.

As far as we could tell, the six

staff members who arrived at 5 p.m. didn't seem to have any particular work to be done two hours before opening, so why were they there that early? They were more interested in keeping media away from the outside of the building and the people who'd been waiting there for hours. The cots were made up, and food is not cooked there. The city is paying that organization for the staffing, and the organization uses that money to pay the staff workers. Is the city of Hartford aware of what goes on there? How about the departments, council committees, and commissions—both state and city—like Health & Human Services and Housing that oversee conditions at shelters? The city's intentions have been good, but without follow-through, is there anyone monitoring the conditions and assuring that the people are being treated humanely and compassionately?



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In My Opinion

Continued from page 2

disparities in firings and suspensions between 2003 – 2013. 71% of the CVH employees who were terminated were Black, only 22% were white. John Hollis has submitted a FOIA request for updated data.

I recently informed the task force about a racially motivated bullying incident I had with a white CVH maintenance worker. I urge any CVH/Whiting employee reading this who is being bullied to document everything, big and small. This worker was angry because my supervisor asked him to insulate our office windows, during a day when the temperatures were in the single digits. I found out through emails obtained via FOIA that this employee said I physically assault

ed him, by pushing him as I walked through my office door. His white boss fully supported him, even though he didn't witness the incident. I included a 2017 email in my written complaint to my supervisor, documenting a previous outburst this employee had in my office after my supervisor at the time put in a work order to fix a malfunctioning air conditioner.

Because of this evidence CVH didn't come after me, but they didn't hold this hooligan accountable, either. The CVH disciplinary data we obtained supports my position that this worker is being protected because he's white. He brazenly attempted to manipulate the State of CT workplace violence rules, knowing that a claim of physical assault is the quickest way to get me suspended and fired. This

employee clumsily used the stereotype of the violent Black male, but he may have succeeded if I had not documented his 2017 temper tantrum.

Task force co-chair Mike Lawlor said he has received numerous reports of racism and workplace bullying from CVH/Whiting employees. Independent oversight of CVH/Whiting in the form of an Office of Inspector General is essential. The task force scheduled a public hearing for early 2020. We requested that employees be allowed to testify anonymously. Sen Heather Somers asks CVH/Whiting employees who have complaints about racism and workplace bullying to email her at heatherssommers@gmail.com. Your identity will be protected.

El Informativo Latino

El Alcalde De Hartford Estará Detenido Con La Segregación

Translated from an article published in the Connecticut Mirror, written by Jacqueline Rabe Thomas

El alcalde de Hartford, Luke Bronin, pidió a los líderes estatales el viernes que dejen de segregar su ciudad a través de políticas de vivienda regresivas.

Parado en un vecindario donde casi la mitad de la vivienda está reservada exclusivamente para los pobres, porque allí es donde los funcionarios estatales y federales han canalizado fondos para viviendas asequibles subsidiadas, el alcalde demócrata señaló la necesidad de una mayor diversidad. En toda la ciudad, el 39% de la vivienda en Hartford está reservada para los pobres.

"Eso está fuera de las listas", dijo. "Tenemos que hacer eso porque la mayoría de las comunidades en todo el estado se niegan a dejar que se construya en su comunidad ... Siempre hablamos en nuestras ciudades sobre combatir la pobreza y tratar de ayudar a las familias a levantarse, pero la verdad es que tenemos una alta tasa de pobreza tasa en nuestras comunidades, en parte, porque, por política, hemos hecho de esta una

comunidad que solo puede ser pobre."

Bronin continuó diciendo que estas políticas restringen "muchas, muchas unidades" en Hartford a las personas pobres, mientras que los pobres son simultáneamente excluidos de la vivienda en las comunidades más ricas de los alrededores.

Mientras Bronin hizo estos comentarios el viernes durante una conferencia de prensa en la que pidió al Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de EE. UU. Que se concentre en "romper las concentraciones de pobreza", los legisladores federales, los defensores de la vivienda y los que viven en el vecindario interrumpieron con vítores.

"Uh huh, buenas palabras, palabras verdaderas", dijo el pastor AJ Johnson de Urban Hope Refuge Church.

En la región de Hartford, la brecha entre ricos y pobres es más amplia que dos tercios del país. Los residentes hispanos viven en vecindarios más segregados que el 98% del país, mientras que los residentes negros viven en vecindarios más segregados que el 91% del país, según muestran los datos del

censo. La composición de la vivienda de una ciudad es especialmente importante en Connecticut porque los impuestos locales a la propiedad juegan un papel muy importante en la financiación de servicios como la educación, la policía y la reparación de aceras.

"Siempre hablamos en nuestras ciudades sobre combatir la pobreza y tratar de ayudar a las familias a levantarse, pero la verdad es que tenemos una alta tasa de pobreza en nuestras comunidades, en parte porque, por política, hemos hecho de esta una comunidad que puede solo ser pobre".

"Esto requiere una conversación más amplia a nivel estatal. Hay acciones que se pueden tomar", dijo Bronin.

Durante el año pasado, CT Mirror y ProPublica han investigado las políticas que crearon estas franjas de viviendas segregadas. Las historias examinan cómo las ciudades bloquean la vivienda asequible a través de la zonificación excluyente, cómo el gobierno estatal y federal están canalizando dinero para construir viviendas para los barrios pobres y pobres, y cómo la concentración de viviendas asequibles en vecindarios de

alta pobreza hace que los titulares de vales de la Sección 8 sean abandonados en barrios con dificultades.

"El mejor resultado para todos, no solo para Hartford sino para todo el estado, sería crear una mayor diversidad económica en nuestras comunidades, poner fin a las prácticas exclusivas de zonificación a nivel local y las prácticas efectivas de financiación excluyente a nivel estatal que se concentran aún más y cada vez más la pobreza que enfrentamos", dijo Bronin.

Max Reiss, portavoz del gobernador Ned Lamont, dijo que la administración está lista para hablar sobre este tema.

"El alcalde Luke Bronin tiene razón en que las ciudades deben trabajar con el estado sobre cómo abordar el problema de la vivienda asequible y la oportunidad de apertura para todos los residentes. Esta es una discusión importante para el estado, que es bienvenida por la administración", dijo Reiss en un comunicado.

Cuando se le preguntó sobre la segregación de viviendas en el programa de radio público de WNPR "Where We live" a principios de este mes, Lamont dijo que planea dejar estas decisiones a los funcionarios locales, pero que "discutir en voz alta y clara" el valor de tener una vivienda asequible.

En respuesta, Sara Bronin, presidenta de la Comisión de Planificación y Zonificación de Hartford, experta en leyes de zonificación en la Facultad de Derecho de la Universidad de Connecticut y el cónyuge del alcalde, escribió en Twitter: "Sí, discutir no funcionará. #exclusionaryzoning #landofsteadyhabits. Los senadores estadounidenses Chris Murphy y Richard Blumenthal y el representante estadounidense John Larson pidieron a HUD el viernes que construya más viviendas de ingresos mixtos en Hartford, en lugar de centrarse en viviendas totalmente reservadas para los pobres. También pidieron a la agencia federal que aumente la cantidad que valen los vales de la Sección 8 para que los titulares de los vales puedan permitirse vivir en mejores vecindarios y aumentar la aplicación de las leyes de vivienda justa para reducir la discriminación.

Estas llamadas siguen a la reacción violenta de los residentes en la parte norte de Hartford sobre las condiciones deficientes de las viviendas financiadas por HUD, y las pocas opciones que tienen cuando tuvieron que mudarse.

"Hay 169 ciudades en Connecticut, y yo desafiaría a todas y cada una de las ciudades y a las personas que viven en esas ciudades, a mirar la situación y preguntarse a sí mismos.

Hartford American Job Center Employment And Training Workshops

The Connecticut Department of Labor (DOL) is offering training and employment workshops to assist Hartford-area residents at the agency's Hartford American Job Center, 3580 Main Street Hartford. Advance registration is encouraged due to space limitations. To register, go to CTHires.com or call (860) 256-3700.

Over 40 and Looking for Work: January 24 from 9:15 – 11:45 a.m.

Attendees will discuss the challenges and employer expectations for workers over the age of 40.

Interviewing Strategies: January 27 from 9:15 – 11:45 a.m.

Designed to provide the knowledge and skills needed to effectively compete with other candidates.

Mock Interviews: January 27 from 1:15 to 3:45 p.m.

With the assistance of a Career Development Specialist, participate in videotaped interview sessions.

Advanced Résumé Writing: January 31 from 9:15 – 11:45 a.m.

Participants can enhance the content of their current résumé by fine-tuning the summary/profile, keywords, accomplishments and achievements.

Nominations Open For 2020 CT Arts Heroes Awards

If you know a special someone who has contributed to the arts in Connecticut, please take a moment to nominate this individual. The deadline to submit a nomination is February 3, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. To place your nomination, go to the website: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2020HEROES>

The Connecticut Arts Hero Awards honor and celebrate Connecticut residents who are doing extraordinary things in the arts, for the arts, and through the arts in Connecticut. Since 2016, the Connecticut Arts Hero Awards have honored remarkable individuals engaged in or supporting the arts - some publicly and some behind the scenes.

The Arts Hero Awards will be presented at an open-to-all, free evening event on Wednesday, May 6, 2020 at Infinity Hall in Hartford.

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